5 March 1985 MJN 8506

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--February 1985

I. GENERAL

An overnight snowfall of 4-5 inches resulted in the first "weather emergency" of the winter on 26 February. The Embassy remained closed for the day because of street conditions, but the Bureau operated normally--with some personnel substitutions. For Amman, this is rather late in the winter for an accumulation of snow, so presumably it was the last incident of the kind for the winter of 84/85.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. The Jordan-PLO agreement on a framework for Middle East peace negotiations attracted interest on the part of both FBIS and Embassy consumers. The text of the 11 February agreement, published by Jordan on 23 February, was apparently released in two "official" versions, one in English and one in Arabic, leading to considerable confusion among interested observers over which wording of King Husayn's formula on "land in exchange for peace" was the more official.
- 2. Syrian-Jordanian relations, already tense, heated up a few more degrees when the Syrians accused Jordanian authorities of direct complicity in a 24 February border incident in which two Syrian civilians were killed. Apparently unsure of how the story was to be handled, the Syrian News Agency first reported the incident, then killed the item, and finally reopened its original item to add comments by the SANA political editor blaming Jordan for a new chapter in the "vile capitulatory plot being concocted by the Amman rulers." Amman subsequently denied any involvement in the incident.
- 3. At the request of ______ the Bureau treated all monitored materials on FRG President Weizsaecker's 3-5 February visit to Jordan as priority processing, including the president's and King Husayn's banquet speeches.

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JORDAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1985

TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

| TOTAL PUBLISHABLE | NORDAGE FILED | BURING MONTH: | | 198,288 |
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| TOTAL NON-PUBLISH | | | TH: | 35,660 |
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